

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY 3/11/74 EXT 23072

APPROVED BY P - J. SISCO

NEA: HHSTACKHOUSE

S/S: SGAMMON

EUR: WSTABLER

EA:ALATHERTON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 048930

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, F, VT, US

SUBJECT: TALKS AT VATICAN

REF: ROME 3328

FOR AMBASSADOR LODGE FROM SISCO

1. PLEASE DRAW UPON APPROPRIATE SECTIONS STATE 47955 (EXDIS) PARTICULARLY PARAS 2, 3, AND 6 FOR YOUR TALK WITH CASAROLI. PLEASE DO NOT GO BEYOND THIS GUIDANCE IN CONNECTION WITH OUR RELATIONS WITH FRANCE OR ON EC-ARAB COOPERATION.

2. MIDDLE EAST.

-- THE OBJECTIVE OF THE SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST TRIP IN FEBRUARY WAS TO GET A PROCESS STARTED BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL WHICH HOPEFULLY WILL CARRY FORWARD THE MOMENTUM GAINED BY THE ACHIEVEMENT OF AN EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DIS-ENGAGEMENT IN JANUARY. WE CAN REPORT PROGRESS, EVEN THOUGH THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES REMAIN SUBSTANTIAL.

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-- ISRAEL HAS AGREED TO SEND A HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATIVE TO WASHINGTON IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS. PRESIDENT ASAD HAS ALSO AGREED TO SEND A TRUSTED REPRESENTATIVE TO DISCUSS DISENGAGEMENT FURTHER AFTER WE HAVE HAD OUR TALKS WITH THE ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVE.

-- IN THESE ONGOING TALKS IN WASHINGTON, WE HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO BRING MATTERS TO A MORE CONCRETE STATE, THOUGH IT WILL BE RECOGNIZED THAT THIS WILL NOT BE AN EASY TASK.

-- THE SECRETARY ALSO HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH KING FAISAL AND HIS PRINCIPAL MINISTERS, UNDERSCORING THE IMPORTANCE THAT WE ATTACH TO THE ROLE OF SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN IN HELPING MAINTAIN STABILITY IN THE AREA OF THE PERSIAN GULF AND THE PENINSULA.

-- IT IS A SOURCE OF GREAT SATISFACTION TO ALL INVOLVED THAT THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED WITH SCRUPULOUS GOOD FAITH ON BOTH SIDES. ALL OF US CAN HOPE THAT THIS IS AN INDICATION THAT AGREEMENTS CAN BE REACHED BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ITS NEIGHBORS AND IMPLEMENTED IN A WAY THAT CONTRIBUTES TO PROGRESS TOWARD AN OVERALL PEACE. KISSINGER

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